

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 22, and 23 are currently pending. Claim 1 has been amended and new claim 23 has been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gustafson et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0054293).

Amended claim 1 recites a compressor assembly that includes a compressor associated with a compressor drive means and including an inlet positioned to draw in air. The compressor is operable to compress the air. A cooling system is positioned downstream from the compressor and is configured to receive compressed air discharged from the compressor. The cooling system includes a heat exchanger, an air circulator configured for moving air across the heat exchanger, and a variable speed circulator drive means operating independently of the compressor drive means. At least one sensor is configured to sense at least one characteristic of the compressed air associated with the circulator drive means such that the speed of the circulator drive means is adjusted in response to a real-time characteristic sensed by the at least one sensor. An outlet is positioned downstream of the cooling system to discharge compressed air from the system.

Gustafson does not teach or suggest, among other things, a compressor that includes an inlet positioned to draw in air and compress the air or an outlet positioned downstream of the cooling system to discharge compressed air from the system.

Rather, Gustafson discloses a refrigeration system that includes a refrigerant compressor that compresses a flow of refrigerant that is then directed through a condenser and an evaporator. Because Gustafson discloses a closed-loop refrigeration system, Gustafson

cannot teach or suggest an inlet that draws air into the compressor and an outlet downstream of the cooling system to discharge compressed air from the system.

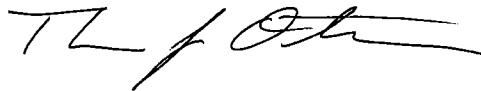
In light of the foregoing, Gustafson does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 1. As such, claim 1 is allowable. In addition, claims 3, 6, 22, and 23, which depend from claim 1 are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 22, and 23 are in a condition for allowance.

The undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TL / Otterlee', is written over the printed name.

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